IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of gabapentin comprising [[the]] passage of a salt of ~~the same~~ gabapentin through a column comprising an ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type, [[the]] elution of the gabapentin which has fixed onto the column, [[and the]] crystallization from organic solvent, ~~characterized in that the~~ and regeneration of the ionic exchange resin, wherein regeneration ~~of the ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type~~ is carried out, in order, as follows:

a. by partially regenerating the resin ~~through a beater constituted~~ by treating the resin with an aqueous regenerating solution of inorganic acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of resin moles ~~comprised between~~ of from 50 [[and]] to 90% of the theoretical percentage required for complete regeneration of the resin;

b. by adding demineralized water in a quantity sufficient to separate the ~~beater~~ regenerating solution from the solution of a gabapentin salt of item c.;

c. by adding a solution of gabapentin salt and by completing the resin regeneration through the acid released by fixing the gabapentin salt to the resin ~~itself~~;

d. by eluting the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin by using a base.

Claim 2 (Original): A process according to claim 1 wherein the partial regeneration of the ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type is carried out by using an aqueous solution of inorganic acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of the resin moles around 70-80%.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1 wherein the partial regeneration is carried out by using an aqueous solution of an inorganic acid ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric, nitric and sulfuric acid.

Claim 4 (Original): A process according to claim 3 wherein the partial regeneration is carried out with an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 4 wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration ~~comprised between~~ of from 5 [[and]] to 10%.

Claim 6 (Original): A process according to claim 5 wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration around 6%.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1 wherein the partial regeneration of the ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type is carried out by using an aqueous solution of inorganic acid corresponding to the anion of the added gabapentin ~~addition~~ salt.

Claim 8 (Original): A process according to claim 1 wherein the elution of the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin is carried out by using an aqueous solution of ammonia.

Claim 9 (Original): A process according to claim 1 wherein the elution of the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin is carried out by using an aqueous solution of ammonia and alkaline hydroxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 9 wherein the alkaline hydroxide is [[NaOH]] sodium hydroxide.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 10 wherein the aqueous solution of [[NH_3]] ammonia and [[NaOH]] sodium hydroxide is obtained by mixing an aqueous solution of 3-4% ammonia and an aqueous solution of 7-8% sodium hydroxide.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 11 wherein the molar ratio ~~between~~ of ammonia [[and]] to sodium hydroxide is ~~comprised between~~ from 1:1 [[and]] to 1:2.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A regeneration process comprising regeneration of a strong cationic exchange resin used in the purification of a gabapentin salt, ~~comprising~~ which regeneration is carried out, in order, as follows:

a. the partial regeneration of the resin ~~through a beater constituted~~ by treatment of the resin with an aqueous regeneration solution of inorganic acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of resin moles ~~comprised between~~ of from 50 [[and]] to 90% of the theoretical percentage required for complete regeneration of the resin;

b. the addition of demineralized water in a quantity sufficient to separate the ~~beater~~ regeneration solution from the solution of a gabapentin salt of item c.;

c. the addition of a solution of a gabapentin salt and the completion of the resin regeneration through the acid released by fixing the gabapentin salt to the resin ~~itself~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 13 wherein the partial regeneration of the ~~ionic~~ strong cationic exchange resin ~~of strong cationic type~~ is carried out

by using an aqueous solution of inorganic acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of resin moles around 70-80%.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 13, wherein the partial regeneration is carried out by using an aqueous solution of an inorganic acid ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric, nitric and sulfuric acid.

Claim 16 (Original): A process according to claim 15, wherein the regeneration is carried out with an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 16, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration ~~comprised between~~ of from 5 [[and]] to 10%.

Claim 18 (Original): A process according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration around 6%.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process for the preparation of gabapentin according to claim 4, wherein the salt of gabapentin is ~~comprising the passage from~~ gabapentin hydrochloride ~~through an ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type, the elution of the gabapentin which has fixed onto the column, the concentration and the crystallization from organic solvent, characterized in that the regeneration of the ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type is carried out:~~

~~a. by partially regenerating the resin through a beater constituted by an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of resin moles comprised between 50 and 90%;~~

~~b. by adding demineralized water in a quantity sufficient to separate the beater from the solution of a gabapentin hydrochloride of item c.;~~

~~c. by adding a solution of gabapentin hydrochloride and by completing the resin regeneration through the hydrochloric acid released by fixing the gabapentin hydrochloride to the resin itself;~~

~~d. by eluting the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin by using a base~~.

Claim 20 (Original): A process according to claim 19, wherein the partial regeneration of the ionic exchange resin of strong cationic type is carried out by using an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid in a quantity equal to a percentage of the resin moles around 70-80%.

Claim 21 (Original): A process according to claim 19, wherein the elution of the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin is carried out by using an ammonia aqueous solution.

Claim 22 (Original): A process according to claim 19, wherein the elution of the gabapentin which has fixed to the resin is carried out by using an aqueous solution of ammonia and alkaline hydroxide.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 19, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration ~~comprised between~~ <u>of from</u> 5 [[and]] <u>to</u> 10%.

Claim 24 (Original): A process according to claim 23, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has a concentration around 6%.